

Methadone deaths, 1999-2005

Findings from the

National Vital Statistics System

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

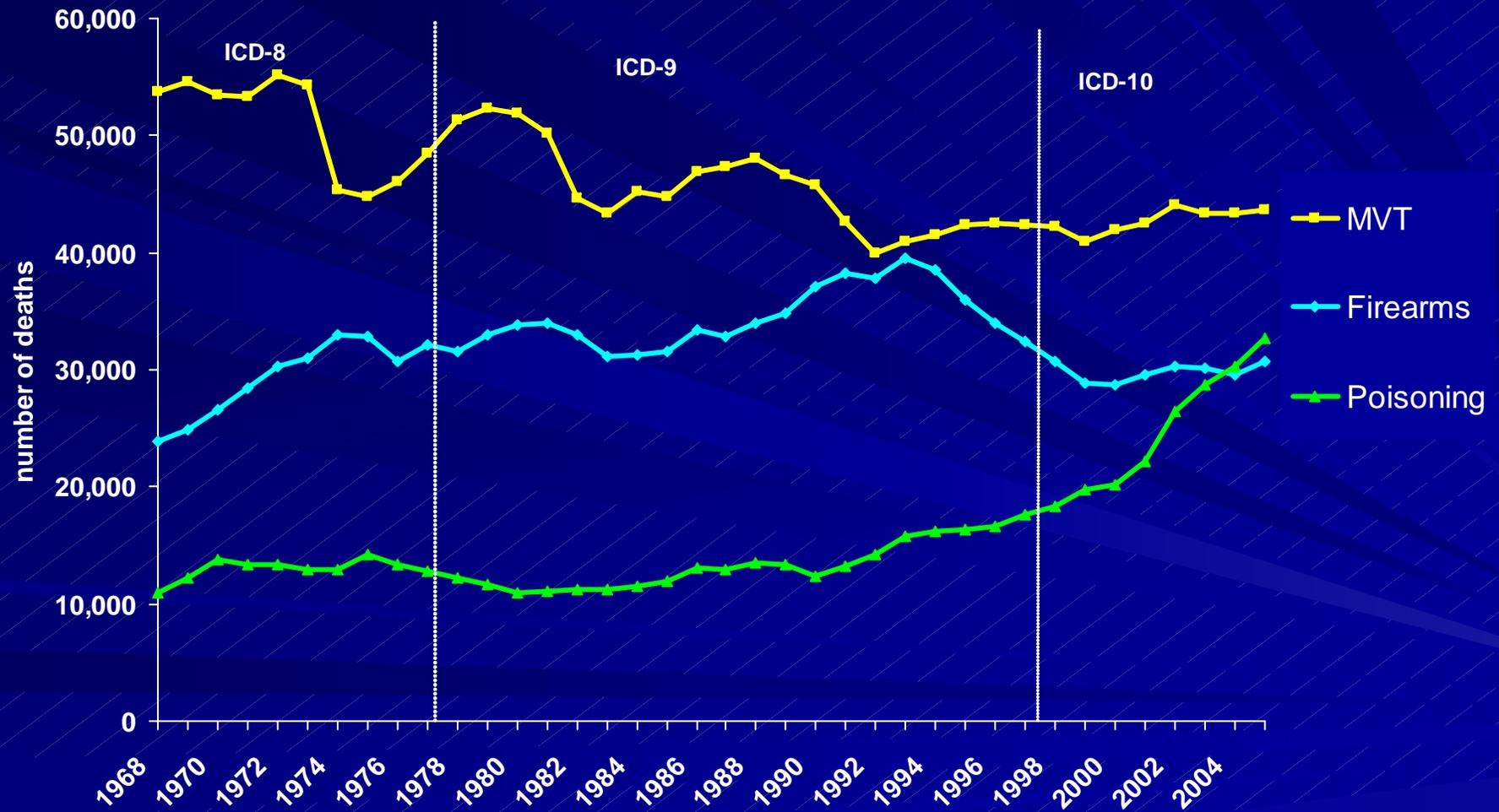
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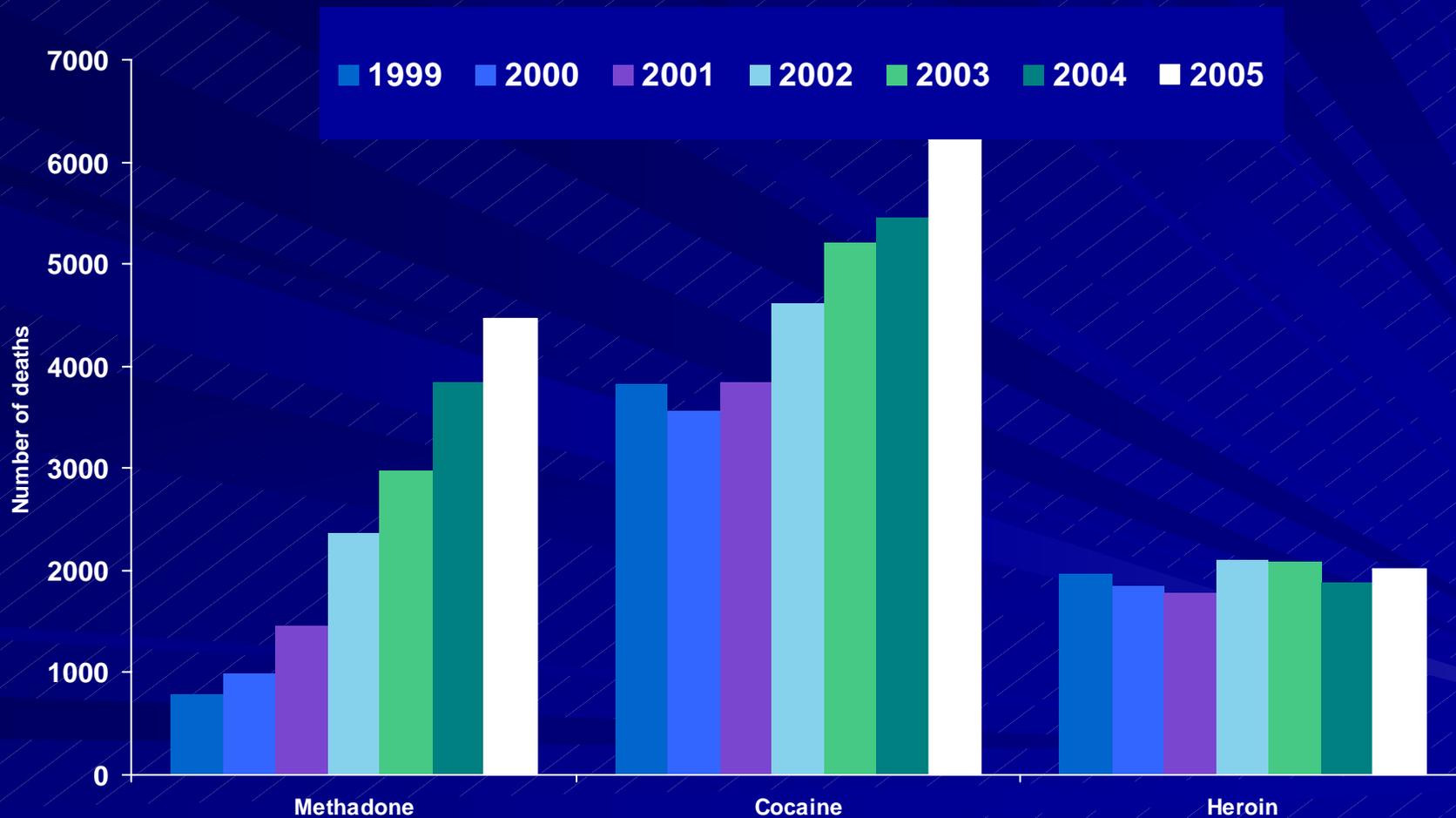
Presentation Overview

- National methadone poisoning mortality in perspective
- Data source
- Methadone-related poisoning deaths
 - Trends
 - Demographic characteristics
 - Regional variation
- Next steps for national surveillance

Trends in leading mechanisms of injury death: 1968-2005



Poisoning deaths mentioning methadone, cocaine, heroin, 1999-2005



Source: NCHS, data from the National Vital Statistics System

Where do the data come from?

Death certificates, which:

- Form the basis for the national mortality statistics
- Describe the chain of events leading to the death using narrative text entered into the cause-of-death section of the death certificate
- Code causes of death using the *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision* (ICD-10)

CAUSE OF DEATH (See instructions and examples)

32. PART I. Enter the chain of events - - diseases, injuries, or complications - - that directly caused the death. DO NOT enter terminal events such as cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, or ventricular fibrillation without showing the etiology. DO NOT ABBREVIATE. Enter only one cause on a line. Add additional lines if necessary.

Approximate interval:
Onset to death

IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death)

a.	Due to (or as a consequence of):	
b.	Due to (or as a consequence of):	
c.	Due to (or as a consequence of):	
d.	Due to (or as a consequence of):	

Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to the cause listed on line a. Enter the **UNDERLYING CAUSE** (disease or injury that initiated the events resulting in death) **LAST**

Causes of death

PART II. Enter other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I.

33. WAS AN AUTOPSY PERFORMED?
Yes No

Other contributing conditions

35. DID TOBACCO USE CONTRIBUTE TO DEATH?

- Yes Probably
 No Unknown

36. IF FEMALE:

- Not pregnant within past year
 Pregnant at time of death
 Not pregnant but pregnant within 42 days of death
 Not pregnant but pregnant 43 days to 1 year before death
 Unknown if pregnant within the past year

29. MANNER OF DEATH

- Natural Pending
 Accident Investigation
 Suicide Could not be
 Homicide Determined

38. DATE OF INJURY
(Mo/Day/Yr)(Spell Month)

39. TIME OF INJURY

40. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., Decedent's home, construction site, restaurant, wooded area)

41. INJURY AT WORK?
 Yes No

42. LOCATION OF INJURY: State:
Street & Number:

City or Town:
Apartment No.

Zip Code:

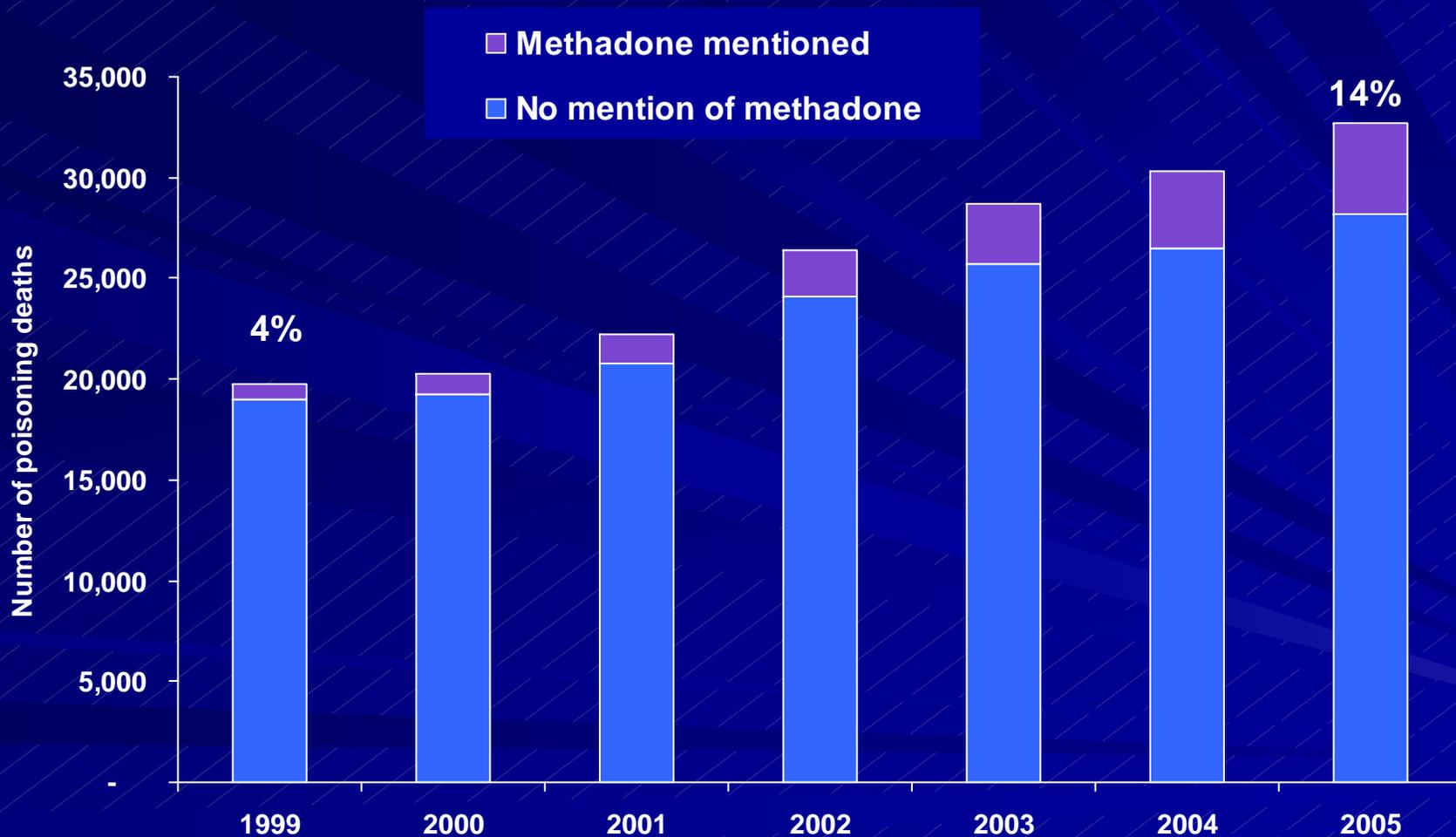
43. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED

How injury occurred

44. IF TRANSPORTATION INJURY, SPECIFY

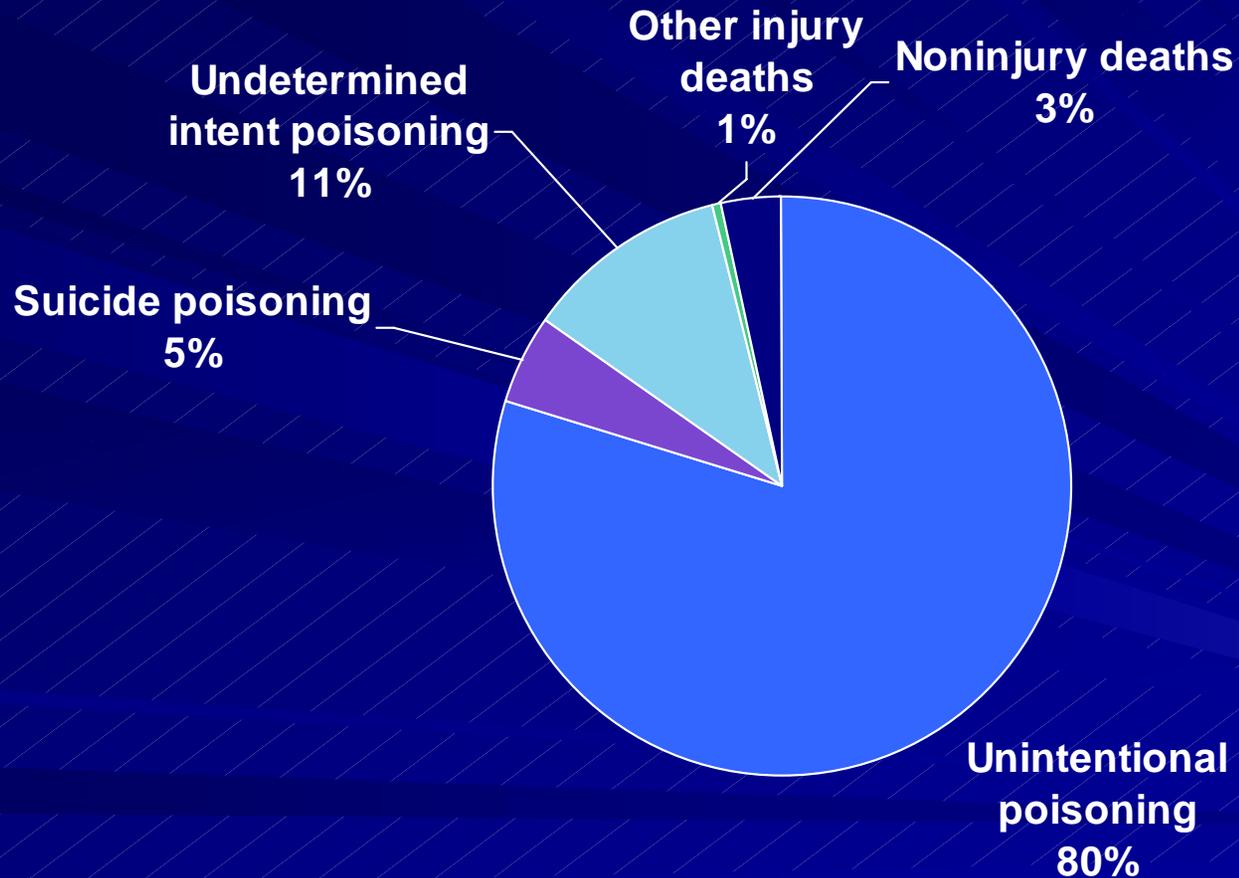
Other (Specify)

Poisoning deaths with and without mention of methadone: 1999-2005



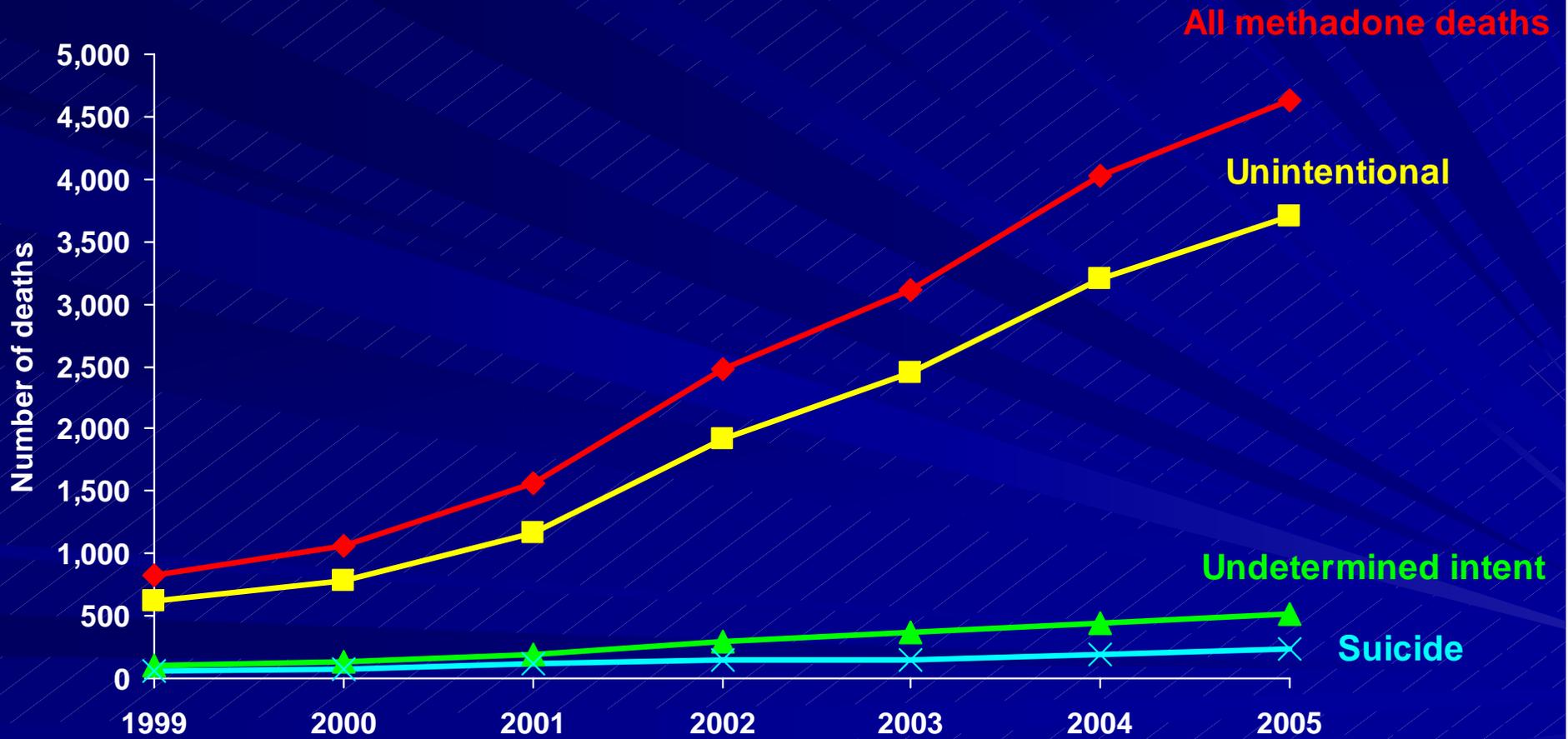
Source: NCHS, data from the National Vital Statistics System

Percent distribution of all methadone deaths by cause and intent: 2005



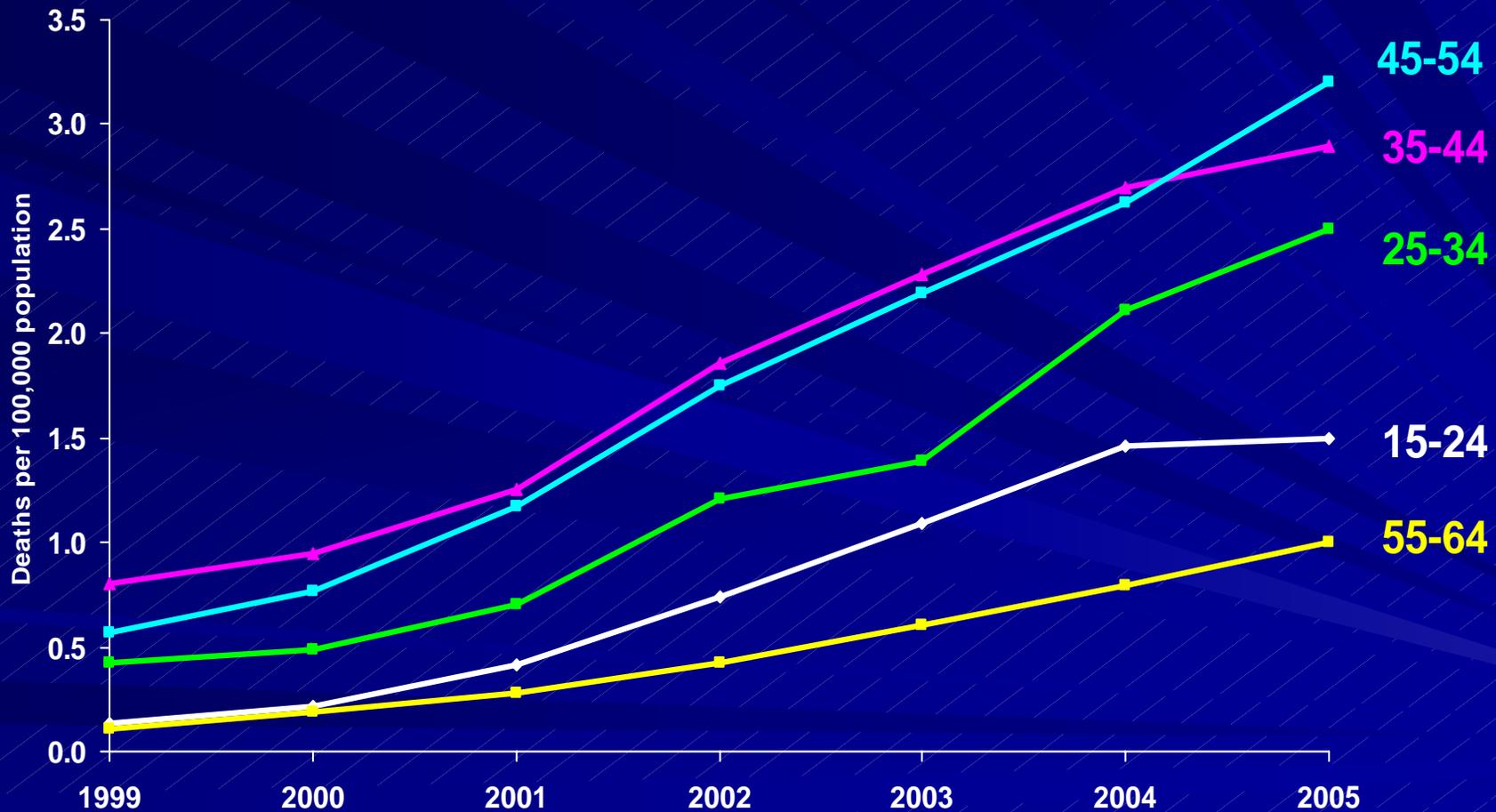
Source: NCHS, data from the National Vital Statistics System

Methadone deaths by underlying cause and intent: 1999-2005



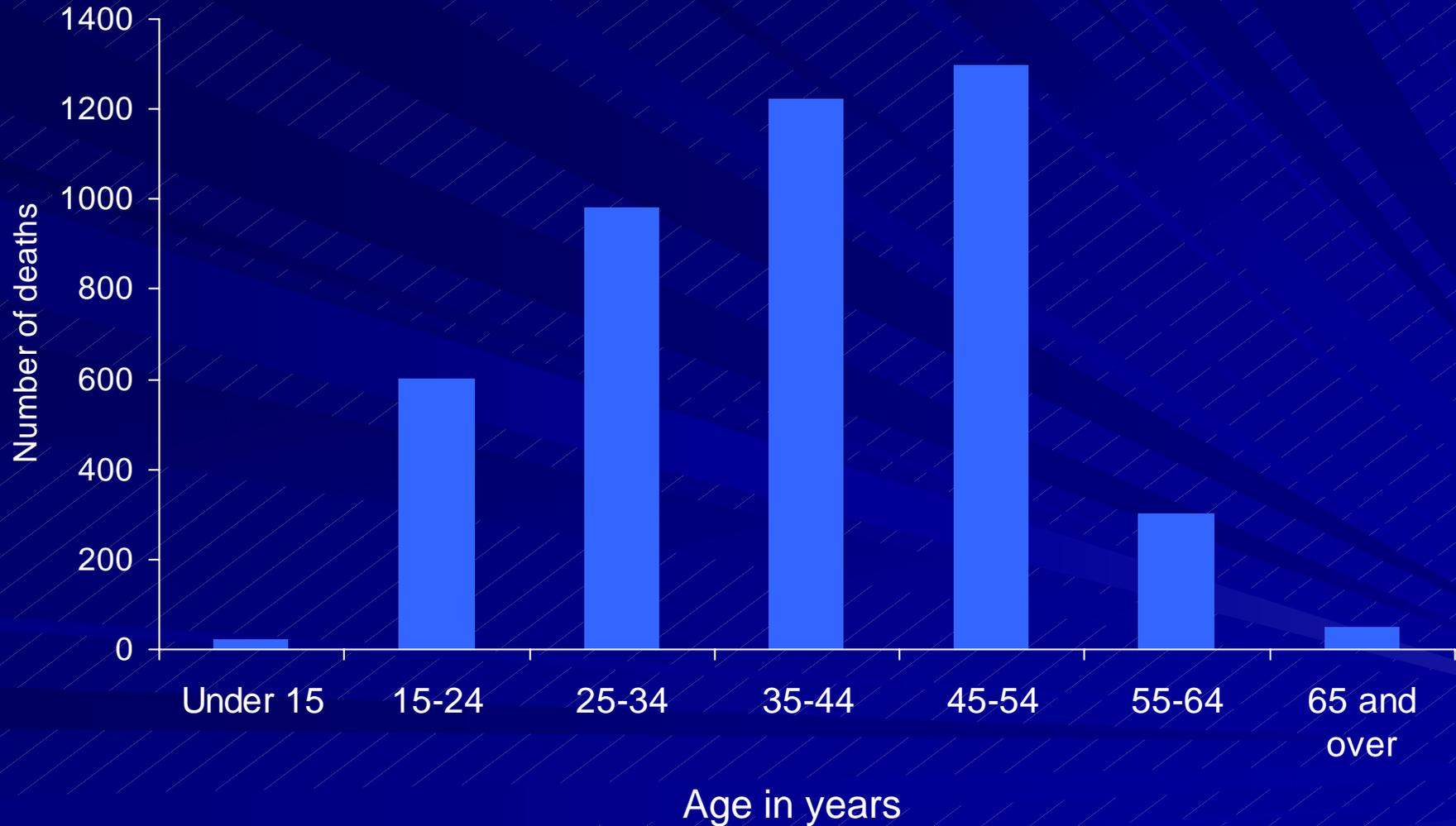
Source: NCHS, data from the National Vital Statistics System

Age-specific methadone death rates: 1999-2005



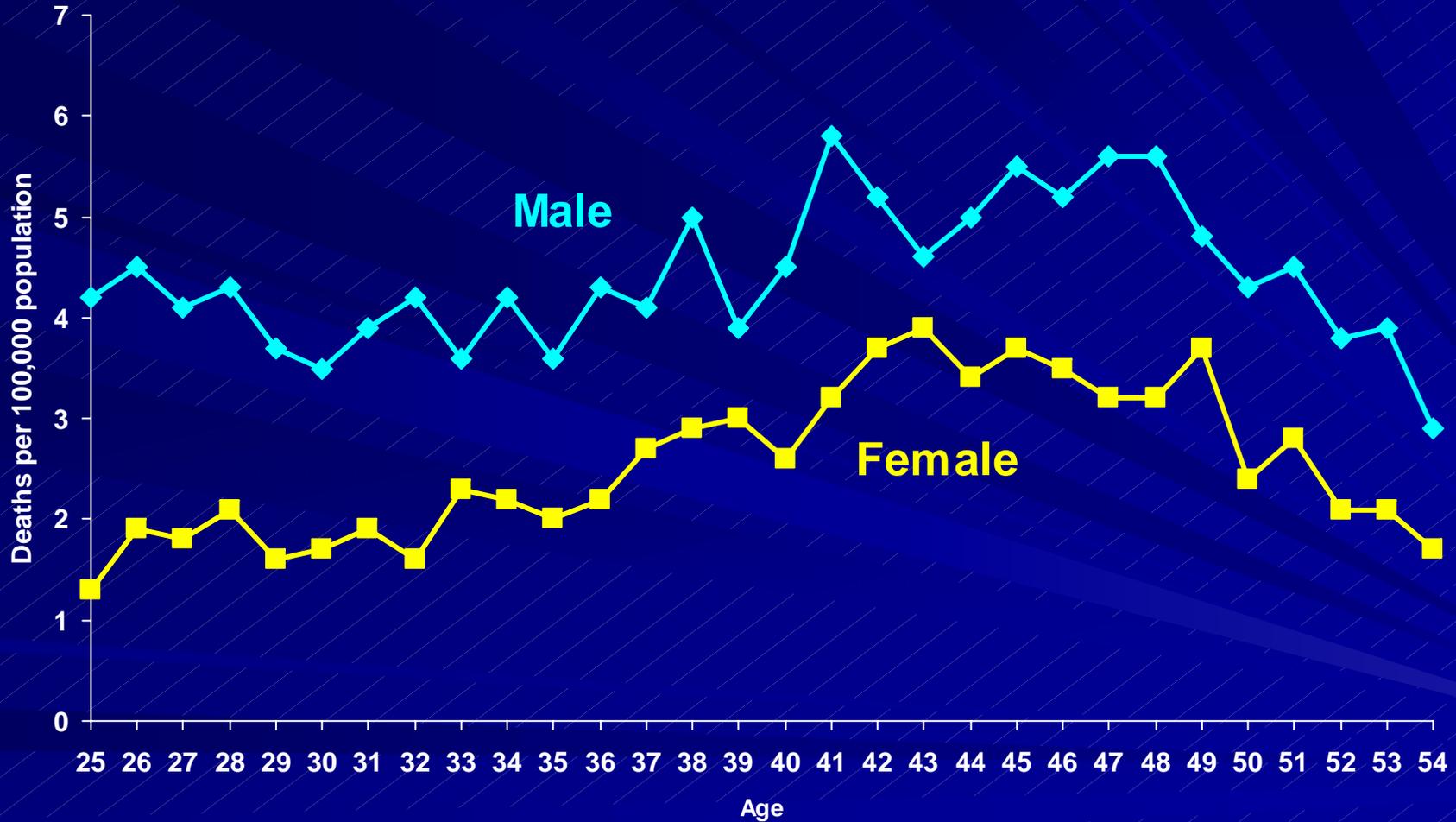
Source: NCHS, data from the National Vital Statistics System

Methadone poisoning deaths by age, 2005



Source: NCHS, data from the National Vital Statistics System

Methadone poisoning death rates by age and sex: 2004-2005



Source: NCHS, data from the National Vital Statistics System

Methadone poisoning deaths, 2005

■ Place of poisoning

70 % At home

5 % Trade/service areas (including hotels)

23 % Unspecified place

■ Place of death

58 % At home

15 % Outpatient or emergency department

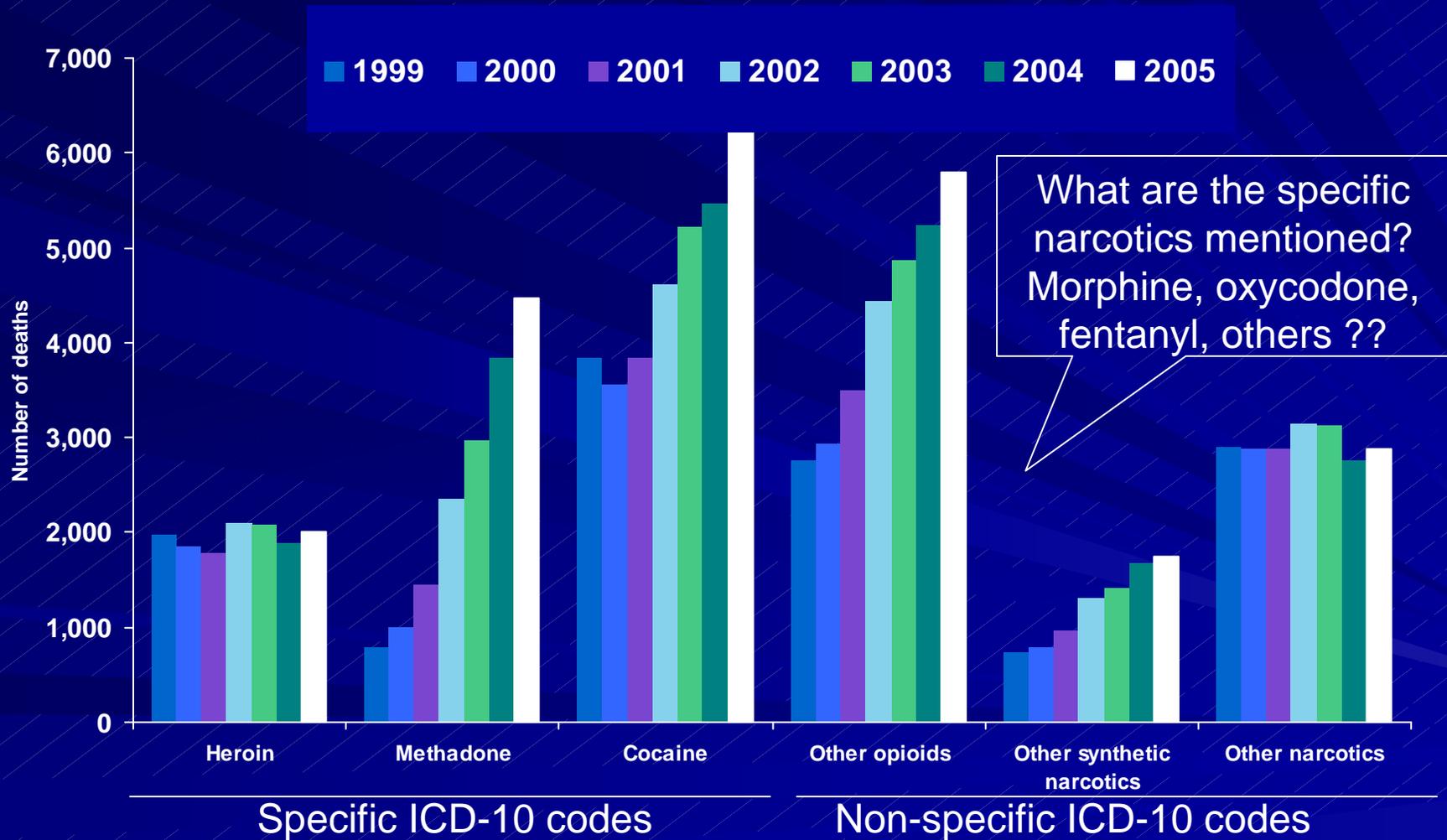
5 % Other medical (e.g. inpatient, nursing home)

5 % Dead on arrival

Next steps for us: Getting more information from the death certificate

- Currently, we use ICD-10 coded data from death certificate
- Developing methods to use literal text from death certificate

Narcotic substances mentioned in poisoning deaths: 1999-2005



Source: NCHS, data from the National Vital Statistics System

**Published findings
can be found on the
National Center for Health Statistics
website under
Health E-stats**

*Increases in
Poisoning and Methadone-Related Deaths:
United States, 1999-2005
by Lois A. Fingerhut, M.A*

Thank you

For more information on
injury data and resources from NCHS, see:
www.cdc.gov/nchs/injury.htm.

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